



NEWS RELEASE

WYOMING DISTRICT OFFICE

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Kenneth Johnson Named Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year 2008

Casper – The Wyoming District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration has named Kenneth Johnson Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year 2008. This award will be presented to him on Monday May 5, 2008, at the Annual Chamber Dinner to be held at the Parkway Plaza Hotel & Convention Centre in Casper. Mr. Steve Despain, District Director of the Wyoming District Office, will be presenting Mr. Johnson with this award. Ken was nominated by David W. McNulty, Director, Veterans Employment and Training Service.

This award is given to an individual or entity who has fulfilled a commitment to advancing small business opportunities for veterans of the U.S. armed forces. Evaluation criteria includes active support for legislative or regulatory action designed to help small businesses; evidence of increased business opportunities for veterans as a result of the nominee's actions; advisory activities to improve awareness among veterans' groups of small business opportunities; advocacy of special consideration for veteran-owned small businesses in government policymaking; demonstrated accomplishment in obtaining support within the community for the establishment of veteran-owned small businesses and other accomplishments demonstrating the nominee's effective advocacy of veteran-owned small businesses. The President of the United States recognizes contributions of the small business community to the American economy and society by proclamation each year.

Mr. Johnson is Casper's local Veterans Employment Representative who covers all of Natrona County. Part of his duty is marketing veterans to local business entities in the area. The work he has done has increased employment opportunities for veterans and assisted both large and small employers in finding the skilled individuals necessary to run a successful business.

You will find Ken making veteran-related public service announcements on KTWQ TV and making PSA's on KTWQ Radio that reach employers and veterans in Casper, Glenrock, Midwest and Douglas. He is active in the Military Affairs Committee of the Casper Chamber of Commerce, participates in all of the Job Fairs and Business Expo's, attends meetings of the Local Veteran Service Organizations and the Natrona County United Veterans Council and spends many days each month contacting businesses to determine what their employment needs are and how the skilled veterans can meet those needs.

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For more information about SBA's programs for small businesses, call 307-261-6500 or TDY 307-261-6527 or visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov/wy.

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